

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3190

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: REACTION TO "FRENCH EDITION" OF REPUBLICA

REF: PARIS 16305 (NOTAL)

1. "QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS" (QP) EDITION OF "REPUBLICA" WAS COVERED JUNE 23 BY ALL FIVE LISBON DAILIES. MANNER IN WHICH STORY PRESENTED WAS MIXED:

A. MORNING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" (COMMUNIST DOMINATED) CARRIED FACTUAL FP DISPATCH WITHOUT COMMENT;

B. MORNING "SECULO" (COMMUNIST DOMINATED) CARRIED SLIGHTLY ABBREVIATED FP DISPATCH, BUT WITH INTRODUCTORY LEAD BRANDING QP "NEWSPAPER ENFUELEDALIZED TO SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC CAPITALIST IDEOLOGY THAT DOMINATES BOURGEOIS EUROPE;"

C. AFTERNOON "DIARIO DE LISBOA" (COMMUNIST DOMINATED) PUT TOGETHER FACTUAL REPORT BASED ON UPI/ANI, FP, AND REUTER DISPATCHES, ADDING SEVERAL PARAS ON RENE ANDRIEU REACTION IN "HUMANITE;"

D. AFTERNOON "CAPITAL" AND "DIARIO POPULAR" (INDEPENDENT LEFTIST) CARRIED SHORT ACCOUNTS BASED ON FP, WITH APPROX HALF OF SPACE DEVOTED TO ANDRIEU REACTION;

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E. AFTERNOON "JORNAL NOVO" REFERRED TO QP, IGNORED ANDRIEU

REACTION, AND CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH REPUBLICA PUBLISHER GUSTAVO SOROMENHO IN WHICH LATTER EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT NEWS OF QP'S REPUBLICA EDITION.

2. EXCEPT FOR DIARIO POPULAR, ALL OF ABOVE ACCOUNTS REFERRED TO REPUBLICA EDITOR RAUL REGO'S EDITORIAL, "PRETEXT OF DICTATORSHIPS." DIARIO POPULAR STORY FOCUSED SOLELY ON "SECRET DOCUMENT" SUPPOSEDLY AUTHORED BY BORIS PONOMAREV, AN ANGLE IGNORED IN ALL OTHER ACCOUNTS.

3. COMMENT: IN GENERAL LISBON PRESS HAS TREATED QP STORY AS ONE MORE NEWSWORTHY EVENT, NEITHER BURYING IT NOR HANDLING IT IN SENSATIONALIST MANNER. GIVEN PRESS' LEFTIST SLANT, ADD-ON OF ANDRIEU CRITICISM IN AFTERNOON PAPERS IS PAR FOR THE COURSE. ONLY SURPRISING FEATURES TO NEWS COVERAGE ARE:

A. FAILURE OF DIARIO DE NOTICIAS AND DIARIO DE LISBOA TO IMITATE SEculo IN GIVING READERS APPROPRIATE "PERSPECTIVE";
B. STRANGE REACTION BY REPUBLICA PUBLISHER SOROMENHO TO NEWS THAT QP HAD PUBLISHED MATERIAL IN WHICH REPUBLICA COLLEAGUE (EDITOR) RAUL REGO PROMINENTLY FIGURED.

4. MORNING PAPERS JUNE 24 DO NOT REFER FURTHER TO MATTER.
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